

## **REMARKS**

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. The amendments are made without disclaimer or prejudice to Applicants' rights to pursue any canceled subject matter in this application or in a continuing application.

### **1. Status of the Claims**

The status of the claims following entry of the amendment is as follows:

**Claims canceled:** Claims 1, 5, 9-11, and 22-32

**Claims pending:** Claims 2-4, 6-8, 12-21, and 33-36

**Claims allowed:** None

**Claims rejected:** Claims 2-4, 6-8, 12-21, and 33-36

**Claims withdrawn:** None

### **2. Support for the Amendments**

The amendments introduce the subject matter of allowed claim 9 into claim 33. The amendments also cancel some claims without prejudice or disclaimer and clarify antecedent basis in other claims. The amendments do not enter impermissible new matter.

### **3. Indication of Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants appreciate the indication that claim 9 is allowable and the Examiner's teleconference with Applicants' undersigned counsel on May 14, 2009, to negotiate an allowance of the application.

### **4. Information Disclosure Statement**

In response to Applicants' request for clarification on February 24, 2010, the Office indicates that copies of three foreign patent references were not provided to the Office in the IDS filed September 15, 2006. Because the present Office Action is made final, a Request for

Continued Examination is required to enter copies of the references. An IDS enclosing copies of the references accordingly is filed with the present response.

**5. Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

Claims 2-8, 10-21, and 33-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,446,181 ("McCarthy"). The Office indicates that claim 9 is allowable over the cited references. The subject matter of claim 9 is incorporated into the only independent claim, claim 33. Allowance of claim 33 and all claims depending on claim 33 thus is respectfully requested.


**CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request indication of the same. Should any issues remain outstanding or if there are any questions concerning this paper, or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative at the Examiner's earliest convenience. This paper may be used as a constructive petition for an extension of time. If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, including for Notice of Appeal, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0573.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: August 13, 2010

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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